

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1946.

3rd November, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stevenage Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report for the year 1946 with corresponding statistics on various subjects for the preceding years :- 1945, 1944, 1943, 1942, 1941 and 1940.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	...	...	4,576
Residential Population - (Registrar General's Figure)	...		6,197
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	1,810
Rateable Value	...	...	£40,180
Sum represented by a penny rate	...		£156

VITAL STATISTICS.BIRTHS.Legitimate:-

Male	.....	53
Female	.....	44

Illegitimate :-

Male	.....	4		
Female	.....	4		
			Total	<u>105.</u>

BIRTH RATE.

1946	.....	16.94
1945	.....	14.54
1944	.....	16.75
1943	.....	15.85
1942	.....	11.06
1941	.....	11.77
1940	.....	11.99

DEATHS.

Male	.....	35		
Female	.....	<u>44</u>	Total	<u>79</u>

DEATH RATE.

1946	.....	12.74
1945	.....	10.90
1944	.....	12.07
1943	.....	12.62
1942	.....	9.86
1941	.....	11.36
1940	.....	10.12

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Legitimate	-	Male	.....	1	
		Female	.....	0	
Illegitimate	-	Male	.....	0	
		Female	.....	<u>0</u>	Total <u>1</u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATE
(per 1000 births.)

1946	.....	9.0
1945	.....	21.7
1944	.....	54.0
1943	.....	38.8
1942	.....	54.5
1941	.....	23.2
1940	.....	51.9

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate	-	Male	.....	2	
		Female	.....	2	
Illegitimate	-	Male	.....	0	
		Female	.....	<u>0</u>	Total <u>4</u>

STILL BIRTH RATE.

1946	.....	0.64
1945	.....	0.15
1944	.....	0.00
1943	.....	0.15
1942	.....	0.29
1941	.....	0.27
1940	.....	0.31

For purposes of comparison, the rate of the smaller towns of England and Wales are given :-

Birth Rate	.....	21.3
Death Rate	.....	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	.....	37.0
Still Birth Rate	.....	0.54

THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH WERE AS FOLLOWS :-

Code No.	DISEASE	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
1.	Typhoid and Parat: Fevers							
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever					1		
3.	Scarlet Fever							
4.	Whooping Cough							
5.	Diphtheria							
6.	Tub. of Resp. Sys.		1			2		2
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis						1	
8.	Syphilitic Diseases				1	1	1	1
9.	Influenza			1	1			
10.	Measles							
11.	Ac. Poliomyel. and Polio-Enceph							
12.	Ac. Inf Enceph.							
13.	Cancer of Bucc: Cav: and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F)	2		2	2	2		2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1			2	2	1	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	1	3	1	2	2	2	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	9	13	10	10	2	7	3
17.	Diabetes			1			1	
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	8	5	9	3	5	13	9
19.	Heart Disease	19	20	22	22	21	27	21
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	3	2	6	2	3	1
21.	Bronchitis	2	2		7	3	4	1
22.	Pneumonia	2	2	3	3	2	2	3
23.	Other Resp. Diseases	1	1		2	1	1	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	2		1		1	
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	1			1			
26.	Appendicitis				1			
27.	Other Digve. Diseases	2	3	1	4	3	2	2
28.	Nephritis	3	3	5			1	1
29.	Puer: and Post-Abort Sepsis							
30.	Other Maternal Diseases							
31.	Prem. Birth			2		1	1	1
32.	Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant. Dis.		2	2	2	3	1	3
33.	Suicide	1		4	1	3		
34.	Road Traffic Acc.	4	1			1	3	
35.	Other Violent Causes	1		2	1	3		
36.	All other causes	14	8	13	10	6	11	6
	TOTAL	79	69	80	82	66	83	65

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified :-

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1940</u>
Whooping Cough	1	-	4	16	-	12	1
Scarlet Fever	6	3	11	3	3	7	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Para Typhoid	-	-	7	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis	2	4	2	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Chicken Pox	5	19	9	-	5	50	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sonne Dysentery	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	133	19	17	25	6	144	6
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	-	5	2
Erysipelas	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebra Spinal Fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Glandular Fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>159</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>219</u>	<u>12</u>

The Scarlet Fever Cases were treated at the Letchworth Isolation Hospital.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Doctors, Nurses and School Teachers have all co-operated to make a success of the scheme and the children have been immunised chiefly at their respective school and a few at the Doctors' Surgeries. Since immunisation commenced 513 children under 5 and 836 children between 5 and 15 have been immunised.

TYPHUS.

A specially trained squad has been organised to combat this disease in case of emergency, which is part of a scheme for North Herts.

SCABIES.

No cases of Scabies were reported during the year.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

During the year children were examined at the various schools by the School Medical Officer. On the whole they were found in good physique, health and in most cases their clothing was good.

COMMUNAL FEEDING.

A large percentage of the School children have their mid-day meals regularly at two centres.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.

- (a) Medical. The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer holding a Diploma in Public Health. He is also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District Councils of Baldock and Letchworth.
- (b) Sanitary. The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, HOSPITAL FACILITIES ETC.

Samples of water, milk, etc., are sent to the public Health Emergency Hospital, Hertford and Rideal, Rideal and Sciver, London, for bacteriological examination.

INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY CENTRE.

Good work has been accomplished at this Centre and on the whole most of the children who attended were free from head lice, etc.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, WATER SUPPLIES.

The Town is supplied by 2 water works pumping plants both electrically operated with one steam stand-by from which a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to all houses with the exception of approximately 50 houses which are situated on the outskirts.

24 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination which gave the following results :-

23 satisfactory
1 unsatisfactory.

WELLS - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

9 samples of water were taken from wells for bacteriological examination, which were under suspicion of contamination and the results of the analysis showed 3 samples satisfactory and 6 samples unsatisfactory.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Town is provided with a foul sewer 24" diameter leading to bacterial treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works and a 36" surface water sewer discharging into a water-course, both of which give satisfactory results.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

House refuse collection and the disposal of same and the cleansing of the Town is supervised and carried out by the Surveyor.

The refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping.

During the year, 34 tons were salvaged which realised £225.

MORTUARY.

A mortuary was erected in 1936 and is fitted for holding post-mortem examinations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of inspections for all purposes, 840, divided as follows :-

For defects under the Housing Acts	120
For defects under the Factories Act	14
For the prevention of Infectious Diseases	40
As to Sanitary conditions of Schools and Public Halls	20
Inspection under the Milk and Dairies Order	67
Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Butchers' Shops, Vans, Food Stores etc.	113
For the prevention of nuisances	150
Inspection of Drainage etc.	30
Inspection of private wells and sampling	130
Inspections re. Rats and Mice Destruction	26
Inspection re. Condemned Food	36
Inspection re. Shops Act, 1934	21
Inspections re. Food and Drugs Act (Ice Cream)	23

Miscellaneous :-

Inspection re. Storage of Petroleum	27
Inspection re. Employment Agencies	4
Inspections re. Living Conditions and Social Conditions of Applicants for Council Houses	19

HOUSING.

House to house inspection was carried out at a number of houses.

40 Council houses were erected during the year 20 of these being permanent and 20 temporary. On account of the shortage of labour, materials etc. no private houses were erected.

Although there has been an influx of work-people, overcrowding has been kept down to a minimum; only 6 cases were reported during the year showing a percentage of 3.31 per 1000 houses.

Sanitary improvements were undertaken in existing dwelling houses, viz :-

Re. drainage	8
Sanitary improvements, including drainage	70
Other work for the abatement of nuisances (by informal action)	65

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

4 houses were treated for vermin which were eradicated by spraying with a liquid vermin mixture named "Zaldocide".

An inspection of furniture, bedding etc. was carried out this being done by the local authority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply (Special Designations Order) 1936.

33 samples of milk were taken for Bacteriological examination which gave the following results :-

<u>Description.</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>
Tuberculin Tested	5	4	1
Accredited	10	10	-
Pasteurised	2	1	1
Ungraded	16	10	6

Meat and other Foods. There are 6 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, which are kept up to a fair standard. Occasional slaughterings licensed by the Food Control Committee are carried out. Centralised slaughtering still takes place at Letchworth.

Foods suspected to be unfit for human consumption in shops, stores, etc., have to be certified by your Inspector before replacements can be made.

Bakehouses, manufacturers of preserved food and tradesmens' vans, etc. are inspected with a view to keeping up a good standard of cleanliness.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS - Table of new cases and Mortality for the year.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	2	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total No. of cases on the Register 29	7	6	9	7				

In conclusion I would express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Bertie Suggs
Medical Officer of Health.

